II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~claim 23, wherein said services include at least one selected from the group consisting of:

    ~~a key management system;~~ key management update

    ~~a funds telemetering system;~~ postal funds update

    a software updating system;

    a postal rate updating system;

    an address cleansing system;

    a postal account management system; and

    a postal statistics server system.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 3~~claim 23 wherein said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~claim 23, wherein said ~~communications facility~~server/router includes an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication and the postal and non-postal applications servers are accessible through connection to the Internet.

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6. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~claim 5, wherein said interface for internet communication includes a remote access server and a plurality of application programming interfaces.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~claim 23, further comprising a monitor for determining when any service is necessary~~being accessed~~, said monitor providing a signal to acknowledge that a said service~~all other services that a service~~ can be provided to said remote station.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 8~~claim 23, wherein each of said postal printing stations has a monitor for determining when any service is being ~~accessed,~~provided, said monitor ~~providing~~initiating a signal to said~~all other~~ ~~services~~ remote postal printing stations that a service ~~can be~~being provided is acceptable to said remote postal printing stations ~~station~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~claim 23, ~~further~~ ~~comprising~~wherein said key management system applies~~data~~ ~~encryption facilities,~~ a different level of security being provided by said facilities for different ones of said services.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 11~~claim 25, wherein said services include at least one selected from the group consisting of:

   ~~a key management process;~~ key management update process

   ~~a funds telemetering process;~~postal funds update process

a software updating process;

a postal rate updating process;

an address cleansing process;

a postal account management process; and

a postal statistics acquisition process.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 13~~claim 25 wherein said services other than postal services include at least one of printing tickets to entertainment events and printing lottery tickets.

15. (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 11~~claim 25, further comprising the step of providing an interface for Internet communication and an interface for modem communication between the remote postage printing stations and the infrastructure, and the postal and non-postal services are accessible through connection to the Internet.~~further comprising using at least one of said interfaces for communication.~~

16. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 15, wherein one of said interfaces is a default interface which is used first to attempt to establish communications and the other of said interfaces is a backup interface, used if said ~~default system~~infrastructure fails to establish communications.

17. (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 11~~claim 25, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the steps of:

providing ~~said interface for internet communication includes~~ a remote access server and a plurality of application programming

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interfaces, ~~further comprising~~and using at least two of said application programming interfaces when communications have been established.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, comprising the step of using said plurality of application programming interfaces simultaneously.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 11~~claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

~~using a monitor for~~ determining when any service is being accessed, ~~said monitor~~

providing a signal to ~~all other services~~ remote postage printing stations that a service ~~can be provided~~is acceptable to said remote station~~s~~; and

activating ~~other~~ services when the signal is received.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 11~~claim 25, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the steps of:

encrypting ~~said system further comprises data encryption~~communication between said infrastructure and the remote postage printing stations~~facilities, the method further~~ and ~~comprising~~ using a different level of security for accessing different ~~ones of said~~ services.

23. (New) A system for providing postal services comprising:

a plurality of remote postal printing stations for applying postal indicia, said postal printing stations having a software product for managing communications;

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a postal system infrastructure connected to said remote postal printing station for communication therewith, said infrastructure comprising:

a server/router for establishing and controlling communication connections between the postal printing stations and the infrastructure;

a key management system (KMS) for managing cryptographic functions of the postal stations

a telemetering system (TMS) for managing funds and audit information concerning the use of the funds in the postal printing stations;

at least one postal application server for providing a plurality of services through said server/router to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure;

at least one non-postal application server for providing a plurality of services, other than postal services, through said server/router to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure; and

wherein said server/router comprises multiple socket servers, each socket server accepting connections on a particular socket port, each of said socket ports being representative of one of said services, for routing the connections to the services within the infrastructure.

24. (New) A system according to claim 23, wherein all communication with the server/router is conducted using the TCP/IP protocol.

25. (New) A method for providing postal services comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of remote postal printing stations for applying postal indicia with means for managing communications;

establishing a postal system infrastructure and connecting said infrastructure to said remote postal printing stations for communication therewith, and further within said infrastructure comprising the steps of:

establishing and controlling communication connections between the postal printing stations and the infrastructure;

managing cryptographic functions of the postal stations;

managing funds and audit information concerning the use of the funds in the postal printing stations;

providing a plurality of postal services through said infrastructure to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure;

providing a plurality of services, other than postal services through said infrastructure to said remote postal printing stations, when said remote stations access the infrastructure; and

establishing connections by multiple socket servers within a server/router, each socket server accepting

connections on a particular socket port, each of said socket ports being representative of one of said services, for routing the connections to the services within the infrastructure.

26. (New)   The method according to claim 23, wherein all communications are conducted using a TCP/IP protocol.